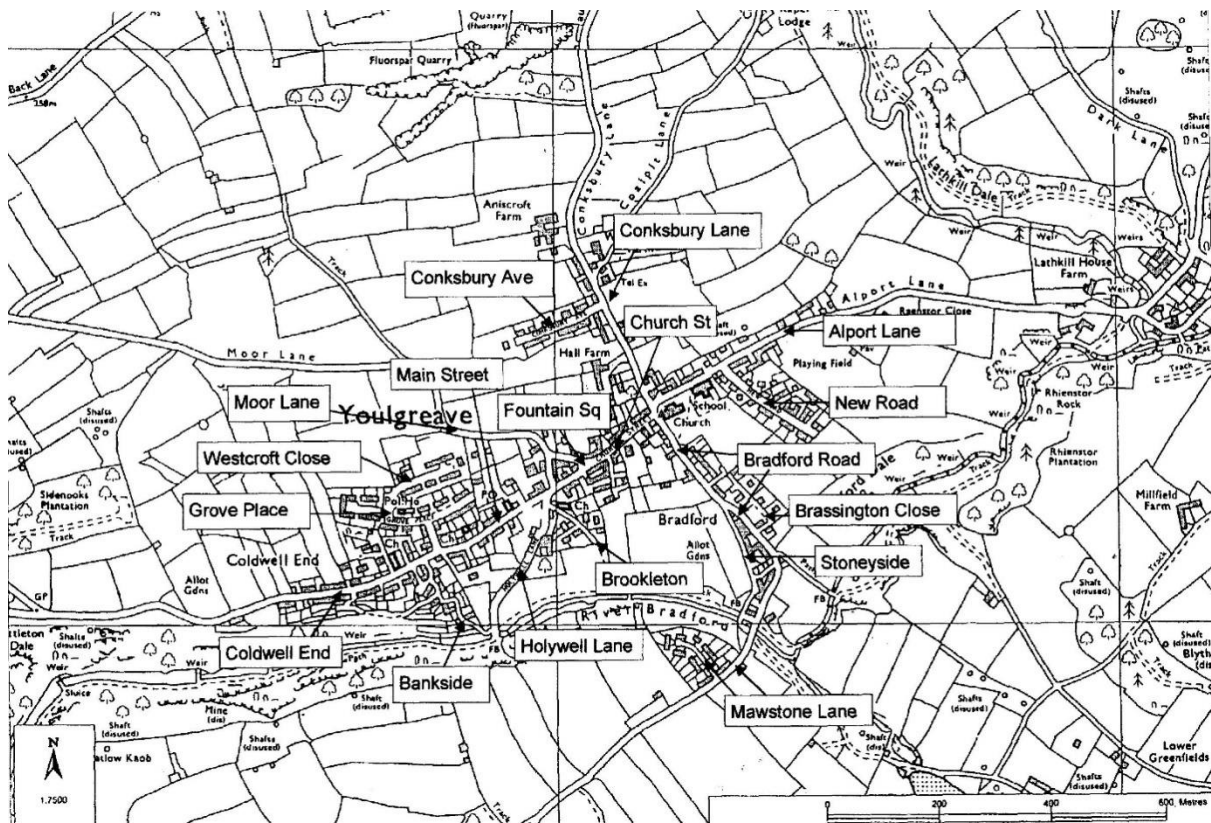


Youlgrave Roads, Parking and Traffic Consultation



1. Introduction and executive summary

Residents' roads, parking and traffic survey: pedestrian safety is a key concern

The results of Youlgrave Parish Council's community consultation on roads, traffic and parking, conducted between November 2017 and January 2018, has shown that speeding traffic and pedestrian safety are the top concerns for local residents, with issues over obstructive parking and illegal lorry movements through the village also high on people's lists.

Over 170 survey forms were completed, a return rate of almost 30%, with lots of useful comments and imaginative suggestions covering most locations in the village. They included a 15ft hand-drawn road map of the village, produced by 1st Youlgrave Brownies on the back of two rolls of wallpaper, pointing out the problem locations and what could be done to make them safer for local people (including traffic lights at Church Corner and pedestrian crossings outside the school and playing fields).

The Parish Council thanks everyone for their contributions. Information about the survey can be found on the Parish Council section of the village website www.youlgrave.org.uk.

Survey findings

The survey asked people to rate 12 separate issues relating to roads, traffic and parking in the village in order of importance for them, then from that list select the top three that they considered most pressing (or suggest others not on the list).

The top five key issues for respondents, scoring between 88-91% each, were: safety of pedestrians; safe crossing points outside the school; speed of traffic through the village; parking which causes highway obstructions; and parking preventing emergency vehicles accessing properties. The top three priority issues overall were speeding traffic; then safety of pedestrians; and (joint third) obstruction of emergency vehicles and HGVs illegally driving through the village.

There were plenty of imaginative solutions, with some people submitting maps and photos. The most popular suggestions, either to address pedestrian or highway safety in the village, were the introduction of a 20mph zone; urgent re-painting of the pedestrian walkways; and action to stop dangerous parking on Church Corner. Other ideas included providing more parking for residents, with various locations for new car parks suggested. There was evident concern for both pedestrians and drivers at the well-known 'pinch points' between the Bull's Head and the Post Office; and outside the Garage by the Old Stonemason's Cottage/Scout & Community Youth Hall.

Other suggestions

There was a little support for short stay parking outside the village shops and the introduction of a residents' permit system for parking; but other possible solutions, such as yellow lines in the centre of the village, were actually ruled out by some respondents for their visual and urbanising impact. Other suggestions, such as extending car parking on the Alport Lane playing fields, are unfortunately impractical – in this case because of the layout of the sports pitches and the likely resistance from the owners Field in Trust (the Parish Council only manage the site).

However, the survey revealed clear and widespread concern over the safety of pedestrians in the village, whatever their age; and undoubtedly the most creative contribution was provided by 1st Youlgrave Brownies. In addition to their 15ft map of the village, they also produced hand-drawn road safety posters, which are being put up around the village. In return, Parish Council Chairman Graham Elliott presented all the girls with flashing road safety armbands to ensure that they can be seen in the dark.

Next steps

Already the Peak District National Park Authority has been in touch with the Parish Council to ask about the survey results. The next step is likely to be a walk through the village with both the Peak Park and highway officers from Derbyshire County Council, looking at specific problem locations and trying to come up with realistic solutions. Derbyshire Dales MP Sir Patrick McLoughlin has also written to the Parish Council expressing his support for action.

2. Survey Results

174 surveys were received in total from all areas of the parish, giving a 29% return rate on the 600 forms delivered to every household, made available at Youlgrave Post Office and posted online at the Parish website.

Q1 – asked for the respondent's area of the parish to be identified, which 160 provided.

Q2 and Q3 asked how many cars were owned by the respondent and where they were parked. As a statistic this proved misleading overall, as there appear to be 303 off road spaces for the 268 vehicles declared. However, as will be seen later when broken down by area, some sections are very poorly provided with a ratio of 5 cars to one space at one extreme to 7 spaces for 3 cars at the other. Rarely is one area adjacent to the next, so a neighbourly permission to park might be a five minute walk between “neighbours” and drives with more than one space are usually by parking one car behind another so not very flexible. Q4 showed that 87% of those with spaces routinely used them.

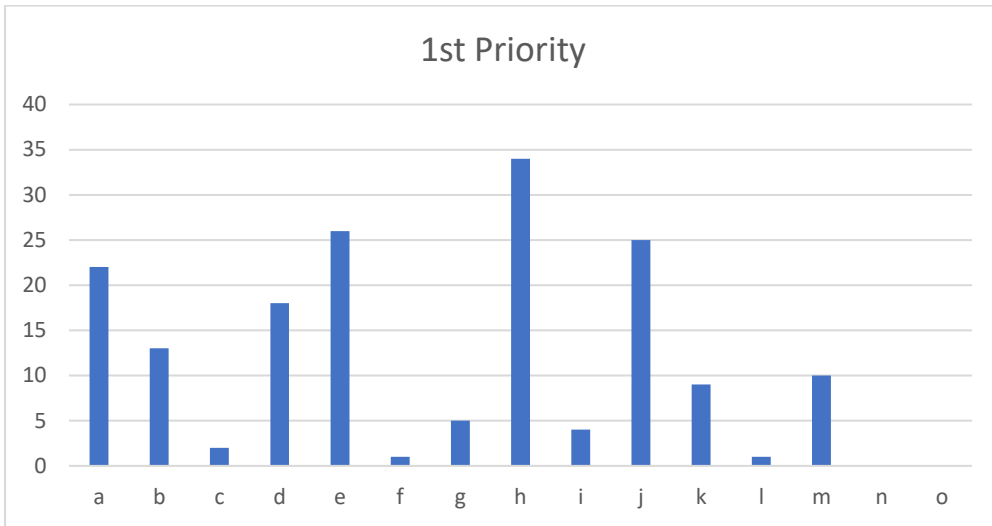
Q5 and Q6 asked where residents and visitors park and showed that 42% of residents park on the highway and 77% of their visitors, again with disparities between each area.

Q7 asked about Key Issues. The questionnaire listed 12 identified by the council and asked for additional priorities, scoring 1 to 5 in importance. These priorities were further refined by asking for the top three to be listed in order of importance. The results are given below with m, n o and p being returns where respondents identified their own priority in the top 3.

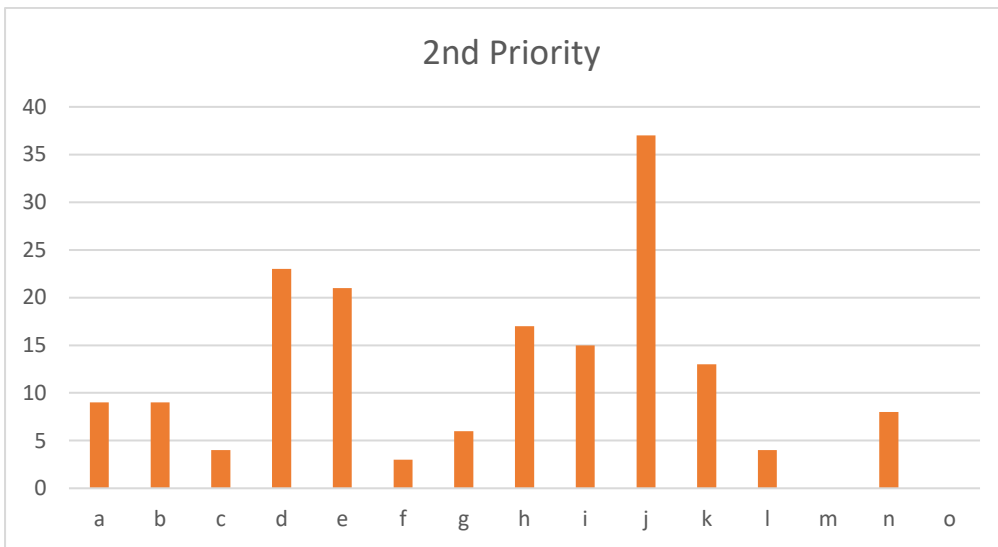
OVERALL SCORES

a Parking for Residents	137.8	80.12%
b Parking at or close to my property	125	72.67%
c Parking for visitors	115	66.86%
d Parking which causes highway obstructions	156.6	91.05%
e Parking preventing emergency vehicles accessing village properties	156.6	91.05%
f Amount of traffic in the village	129.2	75.12%
g Traffic congestion in the village	140.6	81.74%
h Speed of traffic through the village	154.4	89.77%
i Heavy goods vehicles travelling through the village	150.8	87.67%
j Safety of pedestrians	159.6	92.79%
k Safe crossing points outside the school	152.2	88.49%
l Surface of roads and pavements	133	77.33%
m (own priority 1st)	10	5.81%
n (own priority 2nd)	8	4.65%
o (own priority 3rd)	5	2.91%
p (own priorities not in top 3)	38.4	22.33%

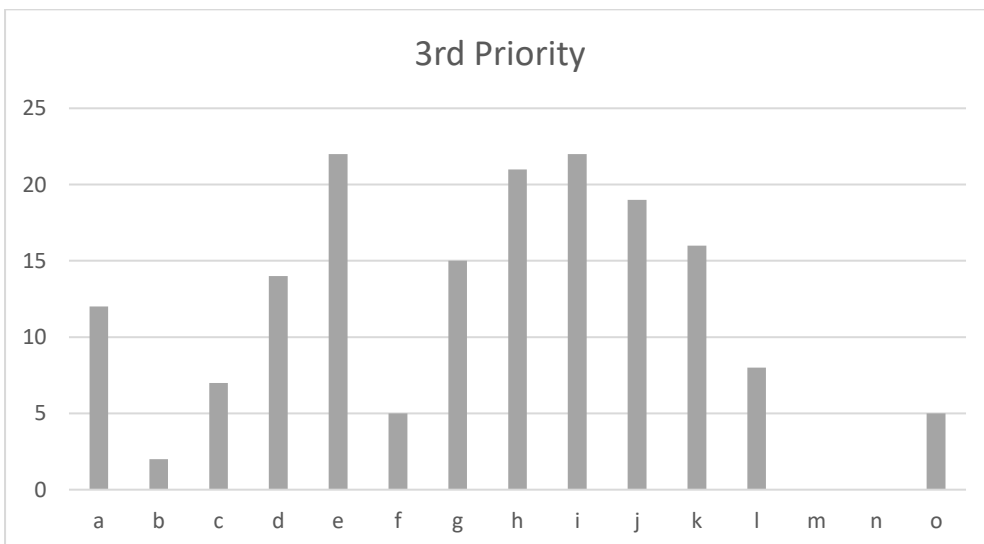
Overall scoring was high as many considered all the issues important, but as will be seen below when asked to prioritise the top 3 the same themes re-appeared.



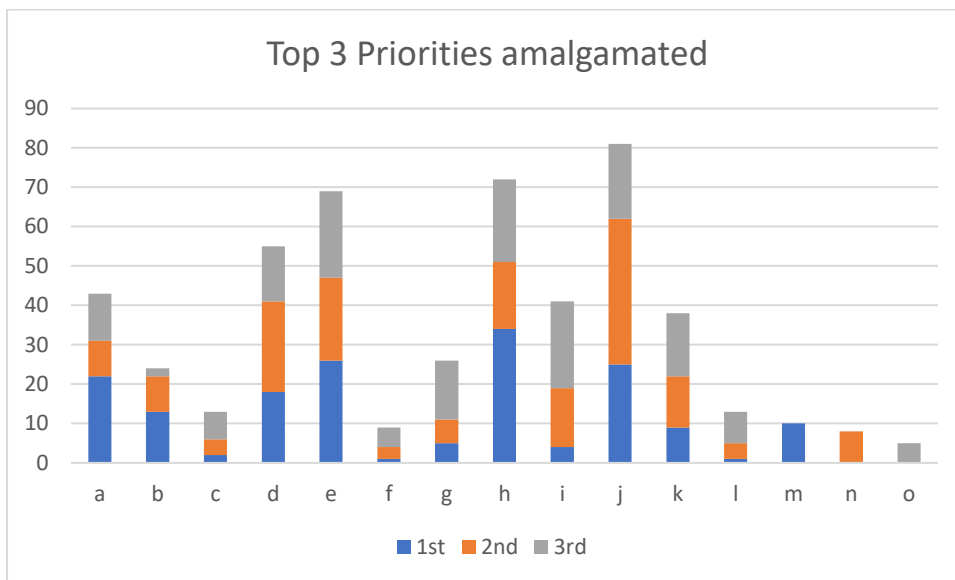
First Priority for respondents is the “Speed of traffic through the village”



Second Priority for respondents is “Safety of Pedestrians”



Third Priority for respondents is tied between “Parking preventing emergency vehicles accessing village properties” and “Heavy goods vehicles travelling through the village”



Combining the scores for the top three swaps “Safety of Pedestrians” with “Speed of Traffic through village” for first and second and “Parking preventing emergency vehicles accessing village properties” remaining at third.

Key issues - sections 3 and 4

Suggestions centred on requests for a 20 mph speed limit (30 mph in Alport) and better safety for pedestrians, as drivers have been observed not to keep a safe distance from them when walking inside the white lines and parking over them is often found in some areas. Pavement sections also suffer from drivers pulling on to them to avoid oncoming traffic. 26% of respondents specifically asked for a 20 mph zone and pedestrian walkways – this ranged from urgent re-marking to different coloured tarmac or setts to raised pavements. Crossing points were also recommended for different tarmac/setts and even traffic lights. All pavements (raised and defined) need to be wide enough for prams, pushchairs, wheelchairs etc.

Inconsiderate parking, narrowing roads to only one car width thereby blocking wider vehicles or parking across entrances, were the main problems, with more enforcement presence requested.

Resident parking was a popular suggestion, with 25% asking for more in general, 15% for resident only on street parking – some only advocating a permit scheme that gave one per household and 15% asking for parking for visitors. 23% wanted to see some form of enforcement, though yellow lines proved an emotive issue with definite no and yes requests which balanced out to give 16% for their introduction. 7% wanted to see speed humps and several comments were received that whilst more passing places are needed, parked cars do help stop speeding. Additional signage suggestions included speed monitoring, children at play and flashing school lights.

24% would like to see more car parks with several locations suggested – Council would note here that those requesting an expansion into Alport Lane Playing Fields is something that has been looked at to increase capacity for sport use, but the football field can’t easily move down the field without encroaching on the cricket square and pavilion. Moreover the field is owned by Fields in Trust who would not allow the Parish Council, who lease it from them, to change from playing field users to general parking.